

The Pocahontas Times

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CALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR.

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1916

Richwood has started something it wants to be in a county to itself and that fair city proposes to take enough territory from Pocahontas, Nicholas, Greenbrier and Webster to carve out a new county to be called Oakford. Oakford is the name of one Col. Oakford who has been active in good things in that community. This naming would be in contravention of the rule not to name a county after a man until his death, for you never know how he is going to turn out. Another name suggested which would sound better is Gauley.

To say that Pocahontas will object to losing territory to the new county is putting it mildly. While it is true that we join Nicholas there is no road between that is traveled, and none at all with Richwood. There is kind of a trail cut through the Fallen Timber country to a part of Nicholas but very few persons have ever traveled it. If a citizen of Pocahontas county of the Greenbrier Valley were to be cut off by force and against his will to help form the new county he would have a railroad journey of 350 miles if he went the quickest route to reach the new county seat. There is no reason to believe that a road of any importance would be built from the settlements in Pocahontas to the city of Richwood.

The citizens of Richwood met last week and laid out the plans to apply to the legislature for a new county the territory to be carved out of the four old counties. Carved out is the word in this instance for there will be war all right. The last round that the legislature had was with the proposed county of West Augusta, to be formed around the thriving city of Mannington but it was defeated.

The constitution provides that no new county can be formed unless it has an area of not less than four hundred square miles and a population of not less than 6000. And that no county out of which territory is to be taken is to be reduced beyond these figures. In the present instance the territory could be found and Richwood would supply most of the population that was needed.

The petitioners first must apply to each county court of the four counties, and those courts must have a survey made of each county and of the portion proposed to be taken, and must appoint census takers to take the census of each county in its entirety and of the portion proposed to be taken. When the survey and census is ordered the petitioners must then arrange for the compensation of the officials appointed to do the work, and on their reports the petitioners can draft a petition to the legislature and get to work, after holding an election of the people within the boundaries on the question.

Harris' West Virginia Manual gives the following figures of the area and estimated population as of July 1, 1915: Nicholas, 680 square miles, population 21,019; Greenbrier 995 square miles, 27,022 people; Webster, 583 square miles and 10,110 people; Pocahontas 904 square miles and 17,922 people.

We think that we can define the position of Pocahontas county in the matter by saying that she would resent losing a single foot of her territory. She has always had trouble with her western boundary as every county was inclined to push its frontier over the line. But if the new county does not come into the region drained by the Greenbrier, then Pocahontas will merely complain and object, but should the new county attempt to cut off any of the settlements in the Greenbrier basin, then we will cry havoc, and let slip the dogs of war.

From the newspaper reports it seems that the county is to be situated in the valley of the Gauley river and in that event it would cut a long narrow strip from Pocahontas county. The Gauley has a wonderfully broad basin at its headwaters. For instance the main prong is at Slaty Fork and the head of Cherry, another fork is west of Renick. Though Pocahontas would lose most of its coal land by that movement, its ancient population would not be disturbed. The county court of this county is now building a \$2000 bridge at the Lobelia country, an expenditure that would be greatly regretted if that territory should be taken away.

While Richwood is a very rich and thriving town, we are so sure that it has permanency that would justify the formation of a county for its benefit. It wholly depends upon lumber and those towns have a short life as a rule, as is well demonstrated in the state of Pennsylvania. When the lumber is gone the industries move away and the towns go down.

It is an expensive matter maintaining a county and the legislature would think that a serious matter with the loud complaints made about the expense of gov-

ernment. The over head charges of the old counties would not be reduced and the new county would have a similar pay-roll. The new public buildings would have to be erected at considerable cost.

The most serious objection to the proposed county however is that in the county that they propose to take there are few farms. How a county in this part of the world can exist without farmers is more than we can figure out. That is what is going to hit Richwood one of these days. It will have no farming community to fall back upon.

We can get along with that bunch of empire builders fairly well if they stay on their side of the divide, but they get to cutting in on the Greenbrier Valley, they are going to stir up some very pronounced opposition to their project, which at the best will be attended with great difficulties and which will meet many objections.

And where there are objections, it is the usual course of a legislature to let be, unless there is some powerful cause back of the movement.

A scout who was riding in Bath county during the recent Fourth of July season brought back the report that the liquor bill of Pocahontas county at the Hot Springs saloons was something over \$13,000.00. That sounds very big to us but there was some money spent for the destroyer during that festive time. It was the first bad outbreak of the demon rum since July, 1914, when we celebrated the state going dry by drinking a number of right good williwags. We had about forgotten about common ordinary drunks and the blood curdling war cries of drinking men, when it broke loose all of a sudden on the fourth of July. A number of things contributed to the occasion. The war with Mexico was on, and one of the horrors of war is the devil that it puts in young men's heads. It was the way we celebrate. The Hot Springs would go dry another year. A decision of the Supreme Court recently rendered makes it lawful to lug your own liquor across the border. Then long abstinence had caused the fumes of liquor to take effect more surely than when the human systems were more tolerant by reason of constant usage.

One stranger in our midst was selling the stuff at six dollars a quart and he was arrested and his stock confiscated on a charge of illegal sale of liquor, but it looks like he ought to be prosecuted for extortion. Anyway you look at it, selling liquor at six dollars the quart is not to be commended. This thing of drinking liquor is a habit easily learned and easily gotten rid of. People are getting educated to the point when they can see beyond the immediate exhilaration that it brings, and they are getting very shy of it. The old style of a bunch of men sitting around a bottle has about played out in West Virginia, though in memory of us all it was a very common form of amusement. It was called social drinking.

"When chapmen, billies leave the street,
And drouthy neighbors neighbors meet;
As market days are wearing late,
And folk begin to take the gate;
While we sat bousing at the nappy,
And getting fou' and unco happy,
We think nae of the lang Scots miles,
The mosses, waters, slaps and styles,
That lie between us and our hame,
Where sits our bowly, sullen dame,
Gathering her brows like gathering storm,
Nursing her wrath to keep it warm."

One thing that we noticed the other day was the youngsters who were on a tear. Just the other day they were wrestling with the mysteries of the first reader, and now they are full and raising Cain. They were of the kind who would feel the effects of being hit with a rotten apple, and they were making fools of themselves, even as you and I. It seems to be the road that we all have to travel. None of us willing to take the word of the man who has been along the way. The curse of Curiosity and the damned opportunity, gets us all into trouble as we journey along.

Johnny has went and got a jag on. He has not fell off of the wagon: Johnny is such a new beginner He has no record as a sinner: When I last saw him, sugar rags Were what he craved, not liquor jags: It's a bitter road John has to tread 'Till he gets some wisdom in his head

One of the things that came back out of the dim and misty past was the platform dance. A floor was laid in a beautiful spot under the trees, and there for a day and a night the young folks danced the old time backsliding dances, to the fiddle, that instrument of the devil. The sight took us back to the dear dead days beyond recall. There they were just as thirty years ago, the girls in ribbons and the boys dancing with their coats off and their hats on. That dance will hang heavy on their stricken souls this fall when they are convicted of sin and turf again to the straight and narrow path.

To quote again from Bobbie Burns, the man who started right as a boy, but who turned and drank himself to death as one of the immortals:
The Kirk and State may join and tell
To do sic things I manna:
The Kirk and State may gae to Hell,
And I'll gae to my Anna.
We are glad that we got through

the Fourth as well as we did. We are glad the Mexican war is again over. We are glad the old state is going dry. We are thankful that so many, many thousands in West Virginia know about the ultimate effects of liquor, and that the world moves on and gets better as it goes.

We are thankful that it is a very rare thing indeed to hear the loud laugh that denotes the second nip, and the vacant bottle.

And it is a wonder to the free, to see wet states gravely arguing the question as to whether it is to the interest of the public to put a state dry. With us who know, it is no longer a debatable question.

Mexico took a sober second thought and decided that she did not want to go to war with the United States. The President has come from Germany and from Mexico without any great loss of life. He seems to know what to do.

Col. Roosevelt is entitled to the slogan used for King James: "The wisest fool in Christendom."

As the word from the primary comes trickling in from the coal mining section of the state, one is impressed with the fact that certain stunts were pulled off by unscrupulous politicians that used to be kept exclusively for the Democrats.

The country is beset with bearded men. From Hughes with his mind like his beard of formal cut, and Fairbanks with his "watery smile and educated whisker," to Carranza who might exclaim with King Claudius: "You must not think that we are made of stuff so flat and dull that we can let our beard be shook with danger, and think it pastime." But the tiff is not yet. Hughes will take the stump and offer to save the country: "But we wote a country, when She sees the tears of bearded men."

Posterity, thinned by the crime of its ancestry, shall hear of those battles.—Horace.

It comes as natural to mention John W. Davis for a high office, as to put a saddle on a horse.

Let us sing on our journey as far as we go; the way will be less tedious.—Virgil.

"Hetty Green Left \$100,000,000." There is a lesson in that head-line. Not one measly dollar did she take with her.

"When clouds appear like rocks and towers,
The earth's refreshed by frequent showers."

In winter it rains everywhere; in summer, where God wills.—French proverb.

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"The Fourth of July celebration, promoted by the Base Ball Club, was a success in every way. The weather was very favorable for the different events, and a large crowd was in attendance. The main attraction was the ball game between the local nine and the strong Bemis team. The game was fast and well played and the final result being a victory for the local boys by the score of 2 to 1. The pitching of Davis, who struck out fourteen, and the hitting of Huff featured for the home team. R. Eagle played a good game for the visitors. The winners of the various athletic contests and those giving prizes are as follows:
High jump won by H. Hambrick, prize \$5, given by Dr. Hammen.
Broad jump won by H. Hambrick, prize one month pass to Cass Theatre, given by Cass Theatre.
Junior 100 yard dash won by Frank Jackson, prize one pair \$5, shoes given by Finger-Siegle Co.
Senior 100 yard dash won by C. C. Clendenin, prize one pair \$5, shoes given by the Pocahontas Supply Co.
Second J. D. Davis, watch chain, by Cass Jewelry Co.
Junior 50 yard dash won by Buzz Heaster, prize \$2 watch given by Dr. C. W. Kramer.
Potato race won by J. D. Davis prize one silk shirt given by Jacob Cooper.
Pie eating contest won by Willie T. Morgan, prize one silk cravat given by F. Hamed and Bro. After the ball game and contests were completed the crowd was entertained as well as afforded

a vast amount of pleasure by those old time platform dances. While the most of the day was taken up by sports, the crowd was enlightened by a very interesting as well as educational talk on the observance of the day and the reason why we should hold the Fourth of July in perpetual remembrance. by Hon. Michael King, of Elkins.

Life Struggle of the Trees.
An interesting light is thrown on the longevity of the trees that grow along the timber line of the Rocky mountains by Mr. Enos A. Mills in his "Rocky Mountain Wonderland." He says:
A few timber line trees live a thousand years, but half this time is a ripe old age for most of the timber line veterans. The age of these trees cannot be judged by their size or by their general appearance. There may be centuries of difference in the ages of two arm in arm trees of similar size. I examined two trees that were growing within a few yards of each other in the shelter of a cave. One was fourteen feet high and sixteen inches in diameter and had 337 annual rings. The other was seven feet high and five inches in diameter and had lived 492 years.

One day by the sunny and sheltered side of a boulder I found a tiny seed bearer at an altitude of 11,800 feet. How splendidly unconscious it was of its size and its utterly wild surroundings! This brave pine bore a dainty cone, yet a drinking glass would have completely housed both the tree and its fruit.

Conversing With "Ghosts."
Some scientists of real eminence have accepted the possibility of the individuality and self consciousness of the soul after the death of the body and have attempted to demonstrate their belief by asserting communication with these disembodied spirits. Sir William Crookes, a profound deliver in chemistry pertaining to radio-activity, asserted years ago that he had communication with souls of dead friends, but for several years he has been silent about this matter. Camille Flammarion, a rather speculative and sensational astronomer, declares that he has seen and conversed with the "ghosts" of dead friends. Professor William James, brother of Henry James, the novelist, promised before he died that if possible he would communicate with his friend Professor Hyslop, both eminent psychologists, but at last accounts the soul of Professor James had not spoken.—Exchange.

Fangs of a Snake.
Examine the finest cambric needle under a high power microscope and its point will look rough and blunt. A snake's fang similarly inspected appears perfectly smooth and sharp. In each fang is a groove which connects by a tube with a sort of bag—the poison gland—just beneath the eye. When the snake strikes a muscular contraction simultaneously forces the venom out of the bag through the tube and along the groove into the flesh of the person attacked. Snake poison, generally speaking, has two distinct effects. It destroys in some mysterious way the fibrin of the blood, thereby causing the latter to behave as if diluted and to filter through the walls of the veins and arteries. In addition, it paralyzes the nerve centers and so affects the heart, sometimes bringing death by suffocation.

Pantomime Performances.
Most pantomime characters were originally borrowed from the Italians. The first real English pantomime was produced at a theater in Lincoln's Inn Fields in 1733. It was called "Harlequin Excited," and the subtitle was "A New Italian Comic Scene Between a Scaramouche, a Harlequin, a Country Farmer, His Wife and Others." The performance was very successful. About the middle of the eighteenth century the character of pantomime performances was completely altered, chiefly because of the genius of the famous Grimaldi, who made the clown the first figure in the pantomime. Grimaldi first appeared at Sadler's Wells theater, where he played the part of a monkey. He was actively engaged on the stage for forty-nine years.

Odor of Iodoform.
It is said that the odor of iodoform can be removed from the hands and utensils by mustard. While the hands are wet (moisten them with cold water) place a small quantity of dry mustard powder in the palm and rub it well over the hands and then wash off with soap and water. For utensils the mustard must be made into a paste and allowed to remain spread on them for several hours.

The Needless Needle.
"Now, ma," said the young man who was showing his visiting mother the wonderful sights of the city, "would you like to go into the park and see Cleopatra's Needle?"
"I didn't know that hussy ever used a needle. She didn't spend much time sewing, from the scanty wardrobe she had in all the pictures of her that I ever saw."—Judge.

System All Right.
"I used to think I would know just how to manage my wife when I got her."
"Has your system proved to be a failure?"
"No; the system is all right, so far as I know. She has never let me try it."—Stray Stories.

Four Counties Inn.
In the Four Counties Inn, in England, it is possible to eat in Leicestershire, sleep in Staffordshire, drink in Warwickshire and smoke in Derbyshire without leaving the building.

Horses and Music.
The musical acuteness of horses is shown by the rapidity with which cavalry horses learn the significance of trumpet calls.

Friendship may and often does grow into love, but love never subsides into friendship.
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THE FOUNDING OF FRANKFORT.

The beautiful German commercial city of Frankfort on the Main is said to have had a curious origin.

When the Emperor Charlemagne contended with the Saxons the fortunes of war were often against him. On one occasion he was forced to retire along the banks of the Main. At the time there was a thick fog, and he was unable to find his ship or any place where his army could cross.

He was almost in despair when a doe, carrying a young one, sprang from a thicket in alarm, leaped into the stream and swam over. Charlemagne followed the example and crossed at the same place. The fog concealed the army, which escaped detection.

When the emperor reached the shore he stuck his spear into the earth and exclaimed:
"Here shall a city arise, to be called Frankfort."
In consequence of crossing the stream he overthrew the Saxons. He then built the town, which afterward became the scene of imperial coronations and later of great commercial importance.—London Answers.

Checkers.
The German name for the game of checkers or draughts is "damenbrät"—ladies' board—probably "damen" for short. Some form of "dame" is used in almost every country where the game is played, except the English speaking countries, and the Scots still speak of the "dambrod." "Dames" was the name in England for a time, and we find it in an English book toward the end of Elizabeth's reign. The first use of the word draughts in existing literature is about 1400. At a later day "checkers" became another name, and this went to America with the early English emigrants and there became the usual name. In England in the sixteenth century the game had three names—"dames," "draughts" and "checkers." At an earlier period "checkerie," "chequer," etc., had been English names for chess.—London Mirror.

Snails Are Queer Creatures.
The snail is found everywhere over 8,000 species being known. Some of the large tropical snails, as bullsnails, form nests of leaves, their eggs being as large as a pigeon's. The snail is extremely skillful in mending its shell, and some curious experiments may be made with them. Thus I have seen a helix of a yellow species attached to another shell of a reddish hue by cutting off the top whorl of the latter, when the snail will proceed to weld the two shells together and occupy both, using the addition as a door and possibly wondering at the sudden extension of its house. In the winter some of the snails hibernate or the dormant until warm weather. A snail of the Philippine Islands has a faculty of throwing off its tail when seized. This is also true of a West Indian variety, stenophaus.—London Telegraph.

Euclid's Lost Books.
"I was very much amused at the comment of a young friend who recently went against the board of examiners for the naval service," said a Philadelphia man. "Speaking of the questions in geometry which were proposed to the boys, this youngster said in a dry way:
"History tells us that the old discoverer of the science of geometry, Euclid, who lived 800 years before Christ, wrote something like twenty books, which he called 'Elements,' and that of this number seven were lost. The examining board of the marine corps has found those books. For the questions it put to us two weeks ago clearly demonstrated that it dug up some theorems which had not been seen in the last 2,000 years."—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Repelling Fire With a Drum.
A fire of a strange nature appeared in Wales in 1693. According to the most intelligible account concerning it now in existence, it came up from the sea near Harlech. At several places near that place and all over Merionethshire it did much damage, burning hay, houses, barns, etc. A person writing of it said: "The grass over which it moves kills all manner of cattle that feed upon it. But what is most remarkable is that any great noise, such as the beating of a drum or sounding a horn, effectually repels it from any house."

Excusable.
Judge—Why did you hit this gentleman? Defendant—Well, judge, I haven't had a vacation for six years, and this boob has been sending me picture postals from Palm Beach, Thousand Islands, California and the orient all these years!—New York Globe.

Precept and Example.
Johnny (at the window)—Oh, ma, an automobile just went by as big as a barn. His Mother—Johnny, why do you exaggerate so? I've told you a million times about that habit of yours, and it doesn't seem to do a bit of good.—Boston Transcript.

The Wayside Dreamer.
Stay too long by the land of dreams and when you wake up you'll realize that the world is at a stary station a million miles ahead of you.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Thankful.
"There isn't a bit of coal or wood in the house, and the gas is turned off."
"Hurry! Then the cook can't burn the dinner!"—Philadelphia Ledger.

Suggestive.
Mary (aged six)—Uncle Charlie, I wish you many happy returns of your birthday, and mamma said that if you gave me a dollar not to lose it.

Dunmore.—Dr. H. H. Jones, Miss Emma Jones and Mrs. Elva Wilson, of Doe Hill, Va., are out on a visit.—C. B. Ivy and family are visiting their aunt Mrs. C. B. Swecker. Mr. Ivy is the advertising agent of the Carolina Chemical Co., of Richmond.—Don't forget the big sales at Marlinton and Dunmore next week.—Capt. C. B. Swecker is having his hand treated at the Marlinton Hospital this week.

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